

WORLD-FAMOUS CROWNS.

PRECIOUS DIADEMS

THE IRON CROWN OF LOMBARDY

Portugal's Emblem of Royalty is a Very Costly Affair.

TIARAS IN THE VATICAN

(Copyright, 1898, the S. S. McClure Co.) Written for The Evening Star.



crown?" one of the French conspirators exclaimed to Napoleon, when that mighty man shrank back from the coup d'etat which would elther place him upon the throne of France or submerge him in overwhelming disaster. If the ques-

tion were asked today the ordinary man would reply that it depended much upon the crown, for of late years many of the lesser diadems of Europe have actually gene a-begging. Considered merely from the standpoint of intrinsic value there are many and various kinds of crowns extant in the world at the present time. For instance, the crown of Roumania is composed of gun metal, made, in fact, out of a bit of old cannon captured at Plevna, that of Portugal has gems in it which have caused it to be valued at no less than

The iron crown of Lombardy, which, by the by, is the oldest diadem in Europe, is only six inches in diameter. The quesfor the first time is, where is the !ron? for to all appearances the crown consists of a broad circle of gold ornamented by an enameling of flowers. This, however, is but the outward case; within the coronet rests the iron itself. The tradition con-nected with this circle of iron has it that

PROBLEMS OF DRESS

An Important Discussion From the

THE SWALLOW TAIL VERSUS FROCK

Waterloo Sedlev's Martial Tunic.

the Scotch Bailiff's Trews.

A 'OWLING SWELL'S MISTAKE

Among other leading questions, the what-

to-wear discussion has been an important

one from the earliest times-dating, in

truth, from the Garden of Eden. It has fig-

ured in history as the topic of writers,

sacred and profane, from the days of Jo

seph with his coat of many colors, the

Romans with their toga and tunic, down

through mediaeval armor, the Spanish

sombrero, or cowboy's hat, the high silk

hat of today and even to the modern bath-

Dress discussion is no new thing, indeed,

and the get-up of this year's dude is not

more talked of than was the gorgeous cos-

tume of the French Directoire and the

dandy of Beau Brummei's day, a century

ago. Climate has much to do with the

matter, of course, but, whether it be for

comfort or fashion, the inhabitant of

every quarter of the globe arrays himself

cording to a consular report, usually wear-

the enlightened temperate zone combine

comfort with elegance, and carry the

adornment of their persons-more especially the fairer sex-to the highest place

After something of an interval, argu-

ments have been heard again recently for and against the dress suit, or rather the

claw-hammer coat for gentlemen's evening wear. This time the agitation proceeds from certain young and middle-aged men,

who, like Joseph Sediey, the civilian of Waterloo fame, prefer the gallant-looking

buttoned-up military coat to any other. Sedley's coat was a fine affair, with its

in fact, no little envy on the part of many civilian wearers of the swallow-tail at the admiration excited for the smart appear-ance of the military full-dress tunic worn

by the army officer at social functions. And if the frock coat is good enough for the soldier, they contend, why is it not all

ong the arts.

right for the citizen?

straw hat and a cigarette. Citizens of

Written for The Evening Star.

Earliest Times.

HO WOULD NOT was reported to have of Grenada to his palace and murdered his exclaimed to Napoleon, when that Perhaps the sinister influence which might attach itself to this jewel is counteracted by its companion, the immense sapphire which is famed to have come from the ring of Edward the Confessor. So great were the virtues it was supposed to have gained through its contact with this holy man that it was generally believed that the charges

through its contact with this holy man that it was generally believed that the stone endowed its possessor with power over various diseases. In connection with the diadems of England might be mentioned the ancient crown of Scotland, which still may be seen in Edinburgh Castle. It was made in the fourteenth century, and was used at the coronation of Mary, Queen of Scots. Czar and Emperor. The Russian imperial crown is a wonderful piece of workmanship. The czar being regarded by his people as to a great extent a religious as well as a temporal lord, it is not surprising to find the badge of sovereignty modeled after the patriarchial miter. Five beautiful diamonds resting on

a magnificent ruby form the cross which composes its summit. Diamonds and pearls of the utmost perfection and a sap-phire which, it is claimed, has no rival, render this diadem one unsurpassed in magnificence. The crown possessed by the German emupon eight shields, four ornamented with diamond crosses and the others with the figure of the imperial eagle, while above this, four hoops sparkling with diamonds support a globe surmounted by a cross. Singularly beautiful, both in shape and ornamentation is the crown of the Franchiscone.

arise eight jeweled ornaments, each topped by a superb pearl. The hoop of the cap is surmounted by an enormous sapphire. The lining is of ruby colored velvet. The it was fashioned out of the nails by which Jeweled Headgear for Europe's Kings and Queens.

It was fashioned out of the nails by which Christ was fashed to the cross. The crown now reats in the cathedral of Monza, Italy, and is under the care of the monks of the establishment. These holy men call attention to the fact that while no attempt has ever been made to clean the baser metal, still there is no sign of rust upon it, a fact which, to their minds, conclusively proves its sacred origin.

emperor is also the possessor of the sacred crown of Hungary. This is, in fact, two crowns, which have been welded together. The first is a golden diadem ornamented with pearls and precious stones, the other a Byzantine circle. At the back of the clusively proves its sacred origin. Byzantine coronet is an enormous sap-phire surrounded by four oblong green stones of some unknown kind. Lapidaries For England's Queen. England possesses but two crowns which disagree as to what these remarkable gems may be. This crown has been the subject of many extraordinary adventures. In 1848 it fell into the hands of Kossuth and mysteriously disappeared. Rumor had it that Kossuth had carried it off, broken it up, and sold the jewels to Tracker. are ever used. One of these is the British state crown; the other the crown of England. The former is reserved for important occasions, while the latter is used at times demanding less magnificence. The state crown, the one used by Queen Victoria when ascending the throne, was made especially for that purpose, and weighs but thirty-nine ounces. It is valued at \$1.800,000. The jewels with which it is studded were supplied mostly from older diadems of the realm, and include nearly 3,000 stones. The arm is of crimeon valued lived. up, and sold the jewels in Turkey. Other declared that it had been taken to Londor declared that it had been taken to London. A government commission was appointed to inquire into the mystery, but discovered nothing until 1853, when a countryman offered to disclose the secret of its hiding place, and led the searchers to a tree near Orsova, in the roots of which Kossuth had caused it to be buried. stones. The cap is of crimson velvet, lined with white silk, and has an ermine border. To some of the gems blazing in this insignia Fortunes in Gems. of royal power grewsome and romantic legends are attached. For instance, the famous ruby given by Pedro the Cruel to One of the most beautiful crowns in Europe is that of the King of Denmark. This, while comparatively simple in design, is of the Black Prince is said to have come into the former's hands by foul means. The story runs that Pedro invited the Red King most artistic workmanship. The leaves by which the circlet is surmounted are curved and veined by precious stones, and each leaf is ornamented in turn by a magnificent

leaf is ornamented in turn by a magnificent jewel.

The King of the Belgians is an uncrowned monarch. There is no coronation function in the exact sense of the word. The chief feature of the ceremony consists in the king's swearing to preserve the constitution and laws of the country.

Spain had in early times no royal diadem, nor does its crown today figure in the coronation services, the sovereign taking an oath similar to that which forms the chief feature of the Belgian installation.

The vatican treasures contain a variety of papal tiars, some of enormous value, The vatican treasures contain a variety of papal tiares, some of enormous value, which, from the beautiful workmanship and precious stones that adorn them, are rendered priceless. Among this collection is one presented to Plus IX by Queen Isabella of Spain. It is valued at more than \$1,000,000, and weights over three pounds. Another treasure is the papal tiara pre-sented by Napoleon to Pius VII. One of its gems is the largest emerald known.

The sultan possesses no crown, coronation being unknown in Turkey. In place of this ceremony is substituted the investure of the monarch with the sword of Othman.

The saber is girt sround the new sultan with the words: "Take it with faith, for ye have received it from God."

Outside of Europe the crown becomes a rarity. The crown of the Shah of Persia, if such it may be called, is of an altogether exceptional shape and size. Indeed, it is most frequently described by those have seen it as a bonnet. It is compose cloth of gold, adorned with strings of hang ing precious stones, with here and there tufts of feathers ornamented by diamonds rubies, emeralds and pearls.

looking cone, which rises up like a turret dome from the level prairies.

Sometimes these tunnels attain a height of fully fifteen feet in the perpendicular, with a radius of equal measurement. Many of these nests have measured as much as fifty yards, or 150 feet, around their base That would give the largest one measured a diameter of about fifty feet. These mound nests are entered through a sort o tunnel cavity at the top of the cone.

The hens of all the building and repairing

are deposited about six feet below the surface. While each hen lays her eggs in the family mound, no hen drops her egg closer than twenty inches to that of her neighbor. These eggs are deposited in a cavity made for it, wherein it is placed in a vertical position carefully covered and the surcal position, carefully covered, and the sur-face as carefully smoothed over by the hen before she quits the nest. Contrary to the usual practice of the bird and fowl species, these mallee hens lay at night, instead of in the day. Several days elapse also be-tween the dropping of two eggs by the

same hen.

The eggs of the mallee hen are out of all proportion to her size. They are as large as those of a goose, and of large hens are very much larger.

The eggs thus laid and covered in this

great sand oven in the hot districts are never again disturbed by the hens. The eggs are hatched by the heat the sun bakes into the soil where they lay. It has never been known how the young chicks are exbeen known how the young chicks are excavated from their egg grave, for the eggs are deposited fully six feet below the surface, and the hardening rains do not aid their exit very much.

The hen is so very shy and vigilant that no one is able to study her maternal and domestic habits with satisfaction. As she leve her eggs at night and transacts most

lays her eggs at night and transacts most of her affairs in the night watch, so that no naturalist or curious individual can ferret her out, possibly she steals to her ex-pected brood under cover of night also, and gives them the parental unearthing which they must surely need after the

pipping of the eggshell.

Bush naturalists have been curious to know how this peculiar fowl builds that nest. The birds have been seen working at it and the mounds have been inspected, but the piling of the dirt is not from the immediate vicinity for that is undistanted. diate vicinity, for that is undisturbed. Small sprigs and the like enter into the plastic masonry, which stands storms and heavy rains, when they do fall, without serious injury.

erious injury.
These huge cones stand for years, to be annually nested in by the same flock which originally constructed the family incubator. When detected the hens emit a pitiful little cackle, and flutter away like a wounded innocent. The young of a covey either root under the sand or hide behind some mound or object of a friendly color.

Autograph Collection Worth \$500,000.

From the London Mail. I wonder what will become of the magnificent collection of autographs which belonged to the late Mr. Alfred Morrison? I once had the privilege of a glimpse of this vast and interesting collection of manuscripts could be the work of one individual. Very nearly every reigning sovereign and every statesman of note is represented, and no great name of whatsoever distinction is omitted. The collection is said to be worth £100,000, and this might easily be true, as on several occasions Mr.
Morrison is known to have purchased sutographs which the nation itself could not
possibly acquire, and 29,000, f10,000 or even
f11,000 have been given several times for
one latter.

Not a Freak of Lightning. From the Chicago Daily News.

Smith-"I was reading in the paper this morning about a Texas man who was struck by lightning while he was swearing.

THINK HIM INNOCENT

Views of Handwriting Experts on the Dreyfus Case.

HE DID NOT WRITE THE BORDEREAU

Startling Developments Promised in the Near Future.

T WILL DOUBT-

expert testimony as to the document on which the French captain was convict-

valho and Mr. Daniel T. Ames of New York, who are two of the most prominent graphologists in the United States. Their reputation as handwriting experts extends beyond the limits of their own country, as their employment in the Dreyfus affair

There have been many cases, civil and criminal, which have turned upon the authenticity of a signature or a scrap of writing, and the profession of graphologist has come to be recognized as one of serious importance. Mr. Carvalho has been for sixteen years the official graphological expert of New York city, and Mr. Ames, for an even longer period, has been recognized as an authority in nice questions of pennianship. They have been employed in many famous cases, notably in the Fair will forgery, which was decided

ast summer.

There has never been a case of such importance as that of Dreyfus, involving as it does the honor of the French nation, for the graphologists to decide. It turns for the graphologists to decide. It turns apparently wholly upon the testimony of handwriting experts. So far as the public is aware, the only evidence that has made Dreyfus a lonely exile on Devil's Island is a scrap of paper, undated and unsigned, that is alleged to have been penned by the hand of the captain at a time when he was a confidential attache of the French ministry of war. On this bit of paper the fate istry of war. On this bit of paper the fate of Dreyfus hinged. In order to make clear this fact, and also the connection of the American handwriting experts with the cose, it may be well to briefly recapitulate the story of this celebrated paper, which has come to be known as the "Bordereau."

The Famous Bordereau. At the time of the arrest and trial of Dreyfus it was given out that the incriminating evidence had come from the waste basket of the German embassy, and had been secured by one of the secret military gents of the government. This individual, who was disguished as a rag picker, made a practice of buying and carefully going over all the refuse paper that came from the all the refuse paper that came from the office of the German embassy, in an effort to find some clue to the source of leakage of important military secrets which were known to be in the possession of the German ministry of war. One day, according to the story given out by the officers of the French government, this detective rag picker secured, among the papers that had been thrown out, the "Bindereau," or "list of documents." This was a single sheet of buff-colored notepaper of ordinary size, and from its contents seemed to be a memorandum of certain documents which had presumably been conveyed to the Germans t was written in French and ran as fol-

to the effect that you wish to see me, I nevertheless send you, sir, some information of interest.

1. A note on the haudraulic brake, 120;

2. A note concerning the covering forces. 3. A note relative to alterations in the

5. The draft of a manual of artillery field practice, March 14, 1894. This last document is exceedingly diffi-This last document is exceedingly dim-cult to procure, and I can only have it at my disposal for a very few days. The minister has sent a certain number of copies to the different regiments and the regiments are responsible for them. Every officer who has a copy has to return it after the maneuvers. So, if you wish to make such extracts from it as may interest you, I will procure a copy, subject to your promising to return it to me as soon as you have done with it. Perhaps, howover, you would prefer that I should copy it out word for word and send you the

of vital importance, but, naturally, the French government was interested in finding out its secret orders were being systematically conveyed to the Germans.

submitted to two French handwriting experts for their opinion.

These authorities—M. Gobert and M. Bertillon—after a thorough examination of the papers submitted to them, delivered opinions exactly opposite. Gobert decided that the two could not have been written by the one man, while Bertillon announced himself convinced that both were the work of the same hand, and later three graphologists were consulted, two of whom agreed with Bertiflon, while the other sided with M. Gobert. The preponderance of opinion was against the prisoner. In spite of his protestations of innocence, the authorship of the bordereau was fastened upon him, and he was sentenced to perpetual exile and the infamy of being degraded as a traitor.

The French Experts.

In order to arrive at some estimate of

In order to arrive at some estimate of the value of these differing opinions, it may be well to consider for a moment the men who uttered them. M. Gobert is the expert examiner of the Bank of France and the most distinguished private graph-ologist in France, a man with presumably no prejudice in favor of either party to no prejudice in favor of either party to the case. M. Bertillon is widely known as a commissary of police and chef de la Service de l'Identite Judiciare an official of the French government, and probably acquainted with their overwhelming desire to fasten the crime upon the accused man. The other experts were men of lesser note, and may have been influenced by the earlier decisions.

earlier decisions.

After the conviction and transportation of Dreyfus his family and friends began his innocence. of Dreyfus his family and friends began an active campaign to prove his innocence. As one step in this they prepared exact reproductions of the Bordereau, and of two authentic spectmens of the condemned man's handwriting, one written before and one after the discovery of that document. These were submitted to the most famous graphologists of the world eleven in number. Messrs, Carvalho and Ames were among those whose opinions were solicited, and thus were brought into the case. It is an interesting and alguificant fact that these eleven experts, in half a dezen different countries, working independently of each other, and along original lines, are

uranimously of the opinion that the two papers were not and could not have been written by the same man. Thus the con-gress of experts stands three for and thir-teen against the decision of the court-martial, with the civilized world, outside of France, united in favor of Dreyfus.

What the Americans Say. In personal interviews the two American

experts recently gave me the result of

their labors in the case and also an account of the manner in which they had arrived at a definite conclusion. Mr. Carvalho said: "When the two papers were submitted to me I first read them over critically, making a general comparison. Afterward I spent five days in a careful study of their contents, placing each letter as it occurred in the two documents, side by side, in parallel columns, carefully examining their peculiarities, under a glass, and making a exhaustive study of every detail. To enumerate all the trivial steps of this process would be tiresome, so I will simply state my general conclusion.

"This conclusion was that the person who wrote the paper known as the Bordereau had simulated the handwriting of Captain Dreyfus, as it appeared in the other specimens submitted to me. He had evidently made himself thoroughly familiar with all its peculiarities. They are all reproduced in the Bordereau, with this essential difference—they are all exaggerated.

"This appears in many states." me I first read them over critically, mak-

French trial for treason commonly called the Dreyfus case. Two citizens of this country were of this country were sential difference—they are all exaggerated.

"This appears in many ways. For instance, the peculiar loops of the I's and q's are more pronounced in the doubtful specimen than in the genuine. Simulated, but Not the Same.

"Now, it appears to me," continued Mr. Carvalho, "that a man in penning a document that he knew to be incriminating would endeavor to disguise his handwriting. He certainly would not lay stress on the peculiarities which would certainly identify it. On the other hand, if you or identify it. On the other hand, if you or anybody else wished to simulate another's writing the natural impulse would be to lay stress upon these peculiarities. These facts formed the basis of my opinion, which was that the two papers submitted to me were the work of different men. Of course I am not giving an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of Captain Dreyfus. I merely say, and say with all certainty, that the papers submitted to me as authentic specimens of Captain Dreyfus' handwriting and that known as the Bordereau were the work of different persons."

Mr. Ames followed a somewhat different method from Mr. Carvalho in making his examination, and it is interesting to note the steps by which he arrived at a simi-lar conclusion.

lar conclusion.

"Every man's handwriting," says Mr. Ames, "possesses certain essential characteristics, a personality, so to speak, as marked as that of the writer himself, and which it is impossible for another to reproduce. It is also a fact, well known to experts and interesting to laymen, that, roughly speaking, a man never writes the same letter twice alike. Where the same character appears over and over again in exactly the same form it is conclusive evidence of forgery, and many cases have turned upon that fact.

An Expert Analysis.

An Expert Analysis.

"Now, to come to the Dreyfus matter, found in my examination a wide divergence in what I have termed the essential characteristics of the two specimens. The person who wrote the Bordereau had evidently made a careful study of Dreyfus' hand, and had a good general idea of it, as

hand, and had a good general idea of it, as well as an accurate knowledge of certain of its peculiarities. But, as in all such cases, he was incapable of copying the unconscious characteristics, which show to the eye of the expert as plainly as peculiarities of speech and manner.

"To come to the details, the handwriting of Captain Dreyfus is longer in its general projection than that of the disputed copy, as is shown in the g's and similar looped letters. Dreyfus spaced his writing uniformly, while the copy is very uneven in the spacing of both words and ilines. In the authenticated writing of the accused man the m's, n's, etc., are made with open angles at top and bottom, while in the other the angles are closed at the base and more rounded at the top.

"Another tell-tale discrepancy is found in the crossing of the t's, a point which experts always consider thoroughly, since it often tells the story carefully concealed in other symbols. In the Bordereau the tis crossed with a horizontal stroke, while in the genuine samples it regularly appears with an upward angle to the stem of the letter.

"In addition to these points there were

of the letter.
"In addition to these points there were

certain differences in the mechanical ex-ecution of the two papers. The pen was sloped at a different angle. In the dis-puted writing the shading on the down strokes and the tail flourishes shows that the pen was held sidewise and sloping to the left. In the genuine the pen was held

in a horizontal position.

"Ali these peculiarities might escape an ordinary perusal, but to one who has made lifelong study of handwriting these fine points are noticeable at a glance, and when they are pointed out to anybody else they are as plain as a sign post. They have con-vinced me that if Capt. Dreyfus wrote the letter submitted to reach a submitted to submitted to me as a sample of his and he did not pen the Bordereau."

Same Conclusions Reached.

It is noticeable that Mr. Carvalho and Mr. Ames approach the problem from different points of view. The former, competent, through long experience in exam ning different hands, to give a convincing opinion, studies their general and specific esemblances and differences and pronounces one an exaggerated copy of the other. Mr. Ames, an eminent student of the art of renmanship, examines the essential characteristics and analyzes the mechanical execution with the same con-Clusion that the disputed copy is spurious. The different methods that they employ make the fact that both reach the same result all the more striking and impre

In this connection it is worthy of note that a sensational development is promised in the Dreyfus case which probably will also turn upon the testimony of expert graphologists. A gentleman in New York who is deeply interested in the efforts for the release of the condemned man, and who, for obvious reasons, does not wish to who, for obvious reasons, does not wish to reveal his identity at this time, said to me:

"The finding in the Esterhazy trial does not disturb the friends of Capt. Dreyfus. Though he was at first believed to be the guilty party, they have known for some time that he would be acquitted and that he was not the real author of the Bordereau. I may say however that the name reau. I may say, however, that the name of the real man is known and that it will be revealed in good time—soon, I think."
"Was his identity discovered by a comparison of his handwriting with that of the

"I will not say as to that; but I will say that his identity is positively known and that all the world is likely to be informed of it ere long. Mark my words, within four months Capt. Dreyfus will be a free man, and not only free but exculpated from the horrible charge that new rests against

To all of which the French officials shrug their shoulders and reply:
"Mais c'est impossible; l'affaire est fini."

Literary Dogs. From the Topeka State Journal.

Some time ago the Kansas City (Kan.) council passed an ordinance giving the public library 50 per cent of all money derived from dog licenses. This will amount to about \$2,500 per year. The membership fee to the public library is \$1 annually The promoters of the free membership scheme claim that by virtue of the ordischeme claim that by virtue of the ordinance giving the library half of the dog license money, the poor people of the city practically support the library. They argue it is not the rich people who keep dogs, but the poor classes. The license on a female dog is \$2.50, while it costs \$1.25 per year to harbor a male dog. It is claimed that \$5 per cent of the money derived from dog licenses comes from the laboring people, and, inasmuch as their money supports the institution, they think it is no more than right that they should be allowed free access to the library.

The ordinance will provide that when a person takes out a dog license the city clerk shall issue with it one membership to the library.

to the library.

First Thing to Be Done

From the Chicago Post. "Now that we have decided to organi the company," said the first promoter, was somewhat new to the business, " is the first thing to be done?"

"Vote ourselves salaries," replied the ond promoter, who had been in the ping business for some time.

Truly there are things that should date even the incorporation papers.



THE ROTARY PLOW AT WORK.

BATTLING WITH SNOW

How the Great Railways Are Kept Clear in Winter Time.

PLENTY OF DANGER AND EXCITEMENT

Long Lines of Engines Charge the Drifts in Vain.

THE ROTARY PLOW IN USE

Written for The Evening Star.

(Copyright, 1898, by the S. S. McClure Co.) "North America is the battle ground of the biggest snow fights on earth. There are thousands of men in the northwest

are thousands of men in the northwest whose only occupation during the winter months is to fight snow. It is exciting work, too, a life that involves the greatest hardships and continual risks. One might search the world over for a more desperate and dangerous employment."

It was a Canadian Pacific engineer who spoke. We were traveling over the Rocky mountains at midnight. Through the glasspaneled door at the tail of the train one could see the icy crests of the mountains in the pale moonlight. In the wake or the summer fires the trees stood up thin and rakish, like the masts of ships. Elsewhere they were shrouded, with drooping branches and spattered stems, in the universal snow. The snow gave an impressive sense of peacefulness to the impenetrable silence of the mountains. I looked out upon the solemn stillness, the broad stretches o. motionless white, the deep passages of avalanches carved along the mountain sides, with a feeling of awe for the immensity of the power that had so changed the face of nature.

But the railroad man had no illusions, To him the snow was a foe, a foe to be feared, a foe against whom men and engines had often measured their strength in vain.

Every now and then the scenery was blotted out; the glass panels suddenly with a rotary plow the suddenly which the train often passes for miles with a their train one dout a break.

As the wheel revolves the snow chips pass back through the intervals between the shovel, fall into a large-sized fan elevator and are hurled forth on this side of the line, according to the the shovel, fall into a large-sized fan elevator and are hurled forth on this side of the line, according to the funder the whotel had blowing into the tast side of the line, according to the funder the individual and the hur

Every now and then the scenery blotted out; the glass panels suddenly showed us nothing but the reflection of i e snow might be tumbling headlong over the slippery ledge in a tempest of passion; but for all its malevolence, impotent to inflict an injury to the poor snake of a train hid-ing beneath its shelter.

Force of an Avalanche. These snow sheds have been erected among the mountains at an enormous cost. They are of massive timber work-heavy beams of squared timber, dove-tailed and bolted together, and backed with rock. They are fitted into the mountain so that they become, as it were, a part of the mountain side, so as to bid defiance to the

nost terrific avalanche.

Anything may precipitate an avalanche down the steep declivities of those piled-up precipices, among which the single-track railway looks like a pin's scratch on the hand of a man. It need be no more than a loosened scrap of rock that has started rolling downward with no forethough. of the immeasurable cataclysm that its pas

sage will create.

In a few yards it has become embedded in a mighty mass of moving snow, a wool-white torrent licking up the levisthan trees as it passes like straws swept up in a storm of autumn leaves, growing more venomous, more powerful, more irresistible, until the rush of the wind before it clears a passage through the forest anticipating its ravages, removing all obstacles as the outriders to a royal equipage make way through a mass of hu

It is truly a royal foe that the railroad men of the northwest have to encounter among the mountains. An onrushing, terrific force, something which cannot be turned, that cannot be checked. It is necssary to resort to subterfuge to cheat it,

to hide from it, or to make good by artificial means the path that the railway has struck out for itself. Battering a Drift. Among the Cascade mountains I have

seen seven and eight engines linked to gether charging impotently against the snowbanks, and at night time there is no more wonderful sight than this, each hissing engine throwing its sheath of firelight on the tenders, with their heavy loads of wood fuel, on the gleaming snow-banks, on the great trees seeming to press round to mock by their stillness all this useless fuss and fury, this powerless raging, this resultless disturbance of their

parts readily before the onslaught of the plow. At times, however, under the bat-tery to which it is subjected, it only becomes more rigidly compressed, more solid, notre impenetrable at each renewed charge, a solid, unbudging block of ice. The engine may go back a mile, the throttle may thrown open, it may rush upon the barrier at a speed of forty or fifty miles an hour. but when the shock of the impact is over, when the snow dust has cleared sufficiently for the engineers to see around them, it may be that they have only advanced a yard, possibly the engine fires have been extinguished, not improbably the engine may have been thrown off the line. but when the shock of the impact is

The one recourse which then remains i to call in the assistance of a small army of men, that a way may be forced through the snow with pick and shovel, and, while these operations are progressing, the pas-

senger train has to be kept constantly on the move, lest in a few hours it become incapable of movement at all.

At such a time it is no unusual thing to see several hundred men at work on a single drift. Perhaps eight or a dozen platforms are cut in the snow, and thus what is removed from the line is passed upward from stage to stage, climbing the steep walls in tiny shovelfuls, until it finally reaches the open waste, thirty or forty feet above the heads of the workers on the ground level.

The men are brought to the spot in special trains and fed and housed as best they can be. They work day and night, sometimes shoveling for thirty or the steep of the spot in special trains and fed and housed as best they times shoveling for thirty or the spot in special trains and fed and housed as best they can be.

can be. They work day and night, some-times shoveling for thirty-six hours at a

The Rotary Plow.

The thing that has simplified the task of snow fighting more than anything else, especially in the prairie country, is the rotary plow. The appearance of the "rotary," as it is familiarly called by railroad men, reminds one of nothing so much as men, reminds one of nothing so much as the screw propeller of a steamship. It is a huge rosette of flanges, about twelve feet in diameter, that bores lis way into snowbanks, clearing just enough space to enable the waiting train to pass through. As the winter goes on, the snow is piled higher and higher on both sides, until we have the perpendicular embankments through which the train often passes for miles without a break.

Dangers in the Path.

With a rotary plow the engineers do not showed us nothing but the reflection of the car and bobbing light of the overhead lamp. They were snow sheds through which the train was passing. The railroad, cut like a single step in the side of the mountain chasm, was roofed in as snugly as a house. Above, for all we knew, the snow might be tumbling headlong over the disabled by encountering the frozen carcass of a horse or a steer in a snowbank, or the debris of fallen telegraph poles, or, among the mountains, the trunks of gigantic trees. It is nominally the duty of the section men to look out for this, and, if possible, to warn the engine driver, and to telegraph for a gang of workmen with pick and shovel to clear the track in the old-fashloned way. But it is needless to say that the most vigilant section men cannot al-ways be relied upon in such a matter as

this.

It isn't often that a train is lost in a snow storm, but that has happened once, at least, not in Dakota, either, but in England. The train started on a Monday night in February, 1881, with, fortunately, only

in February, 1881, with, fortunately, only six passengers—four men and two women. It was missing next morning, but no search expeditions could then be organized on account of the terrible state of the weather. The train was discovered at daybreak on the Wednesday morning by a farmer who had ventured out in search of some missing sheep. His house was barely 200 yards from the spot where the train lay buried beneath that immeasurable white tombstone, but on account of the thickty falling snow he had not noticed it. All the compartments of the carriages, although the partments of the carriages, although the doors and windows were closed, were filled with snow up to the hat racks.

A Musical Asylum From Harper's Weekly.

To the charitable institutions which owe their existence to musicians and their wills -as in the instances of Rosini, Meyerbeer, Verdi and many more—is now to be added the new Asylum for Homeless Children, and its "creche," founded by the late Leo Delibes, the eminent French composer, through the careful observance of his wishes by his widow, Madame Delibes-Denain. The establishment, formally accepted by the municipality of the city of Paris, represents a great boon. It offers, with its endowment, a gift of about \$40,000. The building is a perfectly appointed one in the suburb Clichy-la-Garenne, and it in the suburb Chichy-la-Garenne, and it shelters already many of its little pensioners and guests. It is a pleasant thought in hearing "Lakme" sung, or in being entertained with the liveliness and grace of the ballet "Coppella," that its composer's name is cut over the door of the "Asile Leo Delibes," and that royalties on the composer's best scores and percentages on their innumerable French performances have kept little Parisians from brutality, vice, disease and the streets.

How Bee Wax is Made.

One of the most taxing of the bee indus tries is the making of wax. Bees gorge themselves with honey, then hang themselves up in festoons or curtains to the hive, and remain quiescent for hours; after a time wax scales appear, forced out from a time wax sc. es appear, forced out from the wax pockets. The bees remove these scales with their natural forceps, carry the wax to the mouth, and chew it for a time, thus changing it chemically. Thus it may be seen that wax-making is a great expense to the colony, for it costs not only the time of the workers, but it is estimated that twenty-one pounds of honey are required to make one pound of wax.



The Doctors and Fat Men. But physicians and old men with "ruined blood" and fat men with too great a caponlined ponderosity are the chief objectors to

the claw-hammer. The former declare that a man dressed in a swallow-tail coat which cannot be buttoned over its accompanying low-necked waistcoat is not dressed at allno more than a duchess at one of Victoria's drawing rooms. There is, they say, some slight protection to the back and arms; otherwise a man might as well be in his shirt sleeves, so far as he may be expos to the night air without and the draughts men denounce the claw-hammer

partly for the reason that it is such scanty

ornamentation, is the crown of the Emperor of Austria. From the coronet there covering for their ample persons, but mainly because, in order to look well, it must be a "tight fit." Who has not slyly congratulated his corpulent neighbor at the congratulated his corpulent neighbor at the cotillion on his personal appearance in a loose-hanging dress coat? And who has not heard the strong language of his fat friend pinched by a close-fitting garment? Duncan of Knockduner's objurgations were as nothing in comparison. Duncan was the captain and bailiff in Scott's "Heart of Midlothian," as will be remembered, and had charge of the Duke of Argyle's highland estates. The keen-tempered captain of Knockdunder wore for his usual costume the plaided kilt of his clan, but on a visit from the duchess, who once accompanied her husband to the highlands, he had borrowed the minister's trews

the occasion. Speaking of the incident at a later date, he said: "I will put myself under sic confinement again for no man on earth, nor woman either, her grace being always excepted, as in duty bo A circumstance which may threaten the existence of the swallow-tail is the fact that, owing to the fashion set by actors in recent years of shaving the upper lip, as well as the remainder of the face, a society man cannot now be distinguished at all times from the worthy servitor who attends him at table. The so-called evening suit is the universally established costume for waiters and club servants, who are, of course, beardless; and if awkward mistakes

of identity are to continue something must be done—either the actor's beardless face for the man of fashion or the claw-hammer

An Awkward Mistake. An amusing experience of Mr. William S. Gilbert is told as a case in point. Mr. Gilbert had attended a full-dress club reception in London and was standing in the entrance hall of the house awaiting the return of a messenger when a swell of the first chop came forth from the cloak room and shouted to him, "Hello, my man; call

me a four-wheeler, like a good fellow."

"Well," responded Gilbert, adjusting his own monocular, scrutinizingly, "you are a in some sort of raiment.

The Esquimaux wraps himself in furs, the South Sea Islander sports a nose ring, and, perhaps, a pair of ankle bracelets, while the native of tropical Nicaragua, acfour-wheeler; I can't call yer hansom, you know." Here was a clear case of mistaken identity, for which the 'owling swell stammered an apology, as a matter of course. Gilbert's play on these words, by the way, was nearly as good as that of Charles Lamb's Oxford scholar, who, meetcharies Lamb's Oxford scholar, who, meeting a porter carrying a hare through the streets, accosted him with: "Prithee, friend, is that thy own hare or a wig?" and the puzzled porter was wellnigh as flabbergasted £s Gilbert's swell.

But the swallow-tail has too strong a hold on the younger gentleman of society to be disposed of easily. For him it has a peculiar glamor when he sees it on the peculiar glamor when he sees it on the shapely person of his favorite actor in the heart-rending play. What with footlights and the illustrations in the society novel of the day, it has become strongly intenched in the hearts and heads of the youth of the period; and they constitute a power in matters fashionable.

power in matters fashionable.

It is furthermore the only garment not fitted for out of doors or street wear, and is, therefore, out of the more vulgar channels of use. It is never seen on the backs of our tramp brethren—even the oldest and most scond-hand specimens. And after all that may be said it is of sufficient elegance to be admired beyond other coats for drawing room occasions by—the younger ladies. And that settles it. H. M. S. JORDAN.

MAMMOTH NESTS.

Marvelous Mounds Built by the Mallee Hens of Australia. From the Chicago Inter-Ocean. The mallee hen of Australia lays its eggs

in a huge nest. The nest is really an artificial mound of gigantic proportions for the size of its maker and the purpose it is to tive incubator. It is built by many pairs of birds, male and female working alike to construct it. These same pairs of flocks of birds annually repair and enlarge the queerserve. This artificial mound is a co-opera-

CLAIM IT WAS FORGERY Written for The Evening Star by Earl W. Mayo.

I less interest Americans to know that there is an American side to the great French trial for called upon to give

ed. These two men are Mr. David N. Car-

Although I have had no news from you

formations of artillery corps.

4. A note relating to Madagascar.

I am just going for the maneuver.

I am just going for the maneuver.

That was all. There was no address, no date, no signature. The documents referred to in the memoranda were scarcely but naturally, the

Tracing the Papers. Armed with the clue provided by the bordereau, the secret agents of the ministry set about the task of finding its author. The writing of all the persons from whom it could possibly have emanated were examined and compared with it. It was finally announced by Maj. du Paty de Clam that the writing in the bordereau coincided with that of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, stagiary in the second bureau at the gen-

stagiary in the second bureau at the general staff corps.

Though Dreyfus was under surveillance from this time, he was not at once placed under formal arrest. The bordereau, together with authenticated specimens of the handwriting of the accused man, were first submitted to two French handwriting expected.